

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**CITY OF SANTA FE**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico**  
**March 31, 2003**

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Finance Committee was called to order on this date at approximately 5:15 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum, as follows:

**Members Present:**

Councilor Carol Robertson Lopez, Chair  
Councilor Karen Heldmeyer  
Councilor Matthew E. Ortiz  
Councilor Rebecca Wurzburger

**Members Excused:**

Councilor Miguel M. Chavez

**Other Councilors Present:**

Councilor David Coss

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Kathryn Raveling, Finance & Budget Division  
Ms. Terrie Medina, Finance & Budget Division

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Councilor Wurzburger moved approval of the Agenda, as submitted. Councilor Heldmeyer seconded the motion, which passed 2-0 by voice vote. [Councilor Ortiz was not present for this action.]**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Upon motion by Councilor Heldmeyer, seconded by Councilor Wurzburger, the following Consent Agenda, as published, was approved 2-0 by voice vote. [Councilor Ortiz was not present for this action.]**

5. Bid Openings:
  - A. Bid No. 03/42/B – Eight Reagentless Fluoride Analyzers for Water Division; Controls West, Inc.
  - B. Bid No. 03/47/B — Cascade System for Fire Division; Artesia Fire Equipment, Inc.
6. Request for Approval of Trail Easement Agreement — Trail Dedication; Wofford Family Limited Partnership.
7. Request for Approval of Land Exchange for Lot Configuration — Vista del Sol Subdivision; Neighborhood Housing Services of Santa Fe.
8. Request for Approval of Procurement Under Federal Price Agreement — Digital Copier for Mail & Duplicating Office; Rocky Mountain Business Systems.
9. Request for Approval of Budget Increase — Community Resource Directory Publication; Program Fund.
10. Request for Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Professional Services Agreement — Stenographic Services; Melessia Helberg.
11. Request for Approval of Professional Services Agreement — Create and Install Artworks in Las Acequias Park (RFP No. 2002/48/P); Cynthia Patterson and Hank Saxe dba Saxe-Patterson, Inc.
12. Request for Approval — Loan Art Program and Art in Public Places Loan Agreement.
13. Request for Approval of Change Order No. Three (Final) to Contract — Runway 10-28 Reconstruction; JR Hale Contracting Co., Inc.
14. Request for Approval of Professional Services Agreement — Sampling, Monitoring and Engineering Services for Paseo de Vista Landfill, Frank Ortiz Park and Solid Waste Transfer Station (RFP No. 2003/16/P); URS Corporation.
  - A. Request for Approval of Budget Transfers — Solid Waste Operations Enterprise Fund.

## **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Request for Approval of Two Amendments No. 1 to Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) — First Time Homebuyer Assistance Programs.**

- A. Neighborhood Housing Services of Santa Fe**
- B. Santa Fe Community Housing Trust**
- C. Request for Approval of Budget Transfers — Grant Funds.**

**Councilor Wurzbarger moved for recommendation of approval of this item to the City Council contingent on the following:**

**1) That the potential buyers of homes in Zocalo, City representatives and the Santa Fe Community Housing Trust will have met as requested at the last Finance Committee meeting; and**

**2) That the directors of NHS and SFCHT will have reviewed the policy statement on the steps homebuyers have to go through to further enhance potential buyers having clarity around what they can expect for final closings, and that the Finance Committee will be advised of any changes prior to the Council meeting.**

**Councilor Heldmeyer seconded the motion.**

Community Services planner Linda Hall assured the Committee that the conditions of the motion would be met prior to the April 9 Council meeting.

Councilor Wurzbarger stressed the importance of ensuring that no potential homebuyers are confused at the last minute. She said she looked forward to seeing the process improved even further to be made as clear and fair as possible.

**The motion passed 3-0 by voice vote.**

### **Request for Approval of a Resolution to Establish a Water Conservation Budget Based on Recommendations From the Water Conservation Committee for Use of the \$500,000 From the City of Santa Fe's Water Conservation Fund. (Councilor Coss)**

Councilor Coss noted that various changes have been made to the resolution as it has moved through the committee process. He commented that the final version is much simpler, with two categories, one for public education and the other to help

residents with water conservation practices such as the rain barrels. He stated that Exhibit A to the resolution details how the \$115,000 would go for public education activities. He said the lion's share of the \$500,000 (\$385,000) would go back to the residents for water conservation practices and infrastructure in residences.

Chair Lopez recalled that there had been discussion about putting some of the conservation money into arroyo stabilization work, and recalled a presentation by Jim Hays addressing some ideas for that. She asked where that might fit in here.

Councilor Coss responded that this idea was not included, since the Water Conservation Committee has been chiefly focused on helping residents with rain barrel cisterns, greywater systems and so forth. He commented that perhaps some of the \$385,000 could be carved out and put into stormwater management/arroyo stabilization.

Councilor Coss said the Finance Department also suggested the idea of a revolving loan program for leak repair.

Chair Lopez stated that she did not know when the new greywater regulations would be developed and disseminated, but she seriously hoped there would be a major emphasis on how people could build their own systems under the Public Education component.

Councilor Heldmeyer commented that arroyo changes were expected as part of the NPDES Plan, which was why they weren't in the Water Conservation Committee plan. She said the recent amendments to the NPDES Plan, however, have left that up in the air.

Councilor Heldmeyer asked Councilor Coss if specific groups or organizations have been selected to undertake the public education activities.

Councilor Coss responded that the Water Conservation Committee has not picked anyone, although a member of the Committee from Santa Fe Community College is trying to get \$5,000 to do an education water fair through the College.

Councilor Heldmeyer said she had asked this question because a group has approached the City and asked for \$45,000 to do education in the schools — and while she thought that very worthwhile, she was somewhat concerned because this group has no background in child development or education. She commented that she thought people dealing with kids should have specialized knowledge and specialized background in those areas.

Councilor Coss responded that he has informed various groups that any educational program will have to go through the City procurement process. He

noted that the Water Conservation Committee has dedicated \$23,000 in its budget for a citywide water conservation educational program.

Councilor Heldmeyer pointed out, though, that some of the amounts in the Public Education component are under the City Manager's discretionary amount, so she hoped there would be some discussion on qualifications for applicants.

Councilor Wurzbarger said she wanted to reinforce the importance of working with the schools, since children can be motivated to pass on what they have learned to their parents.

Councilor Coss commented that the best way to accomplish that is to work directly with the schools instead of waiting for third parties to propose programs.

Chair Lopez stated that a lot of people in the community are interested in working on this aspect, and she thought they should be involved whether or not they have a specialized background. She said, "I think we can supplement those without an educational background with educators being included on any panel."

Chair Lopez said she envisioned a more focused effort, e.g., every fourth grader in public school will do a water budget for their household and then monitor that budget for the entire school year.

Chair Lopez suggested that the Water Conservation Committee appoint subcommittees to address specific aspects of water conservation; for instance, perhaps a committee member, with the assistance of staff, could be assigned to recruit volunteers in the community to work on a water conservation program in the schools.

Councilor Heldmeyer cautioned against setting up an educational program with the assumption that everyone lives in a single family home, because some kids may feel left out. She said, "It has to be something that really looks at the diversity within whatever age group or grade they are looking at, and fits everyone within that diversity."

Chair Lopez commented that water budgets will not work until the City starts requiring sub-metering. She stated that she understood there are meters that apartment complexes can install that are less expensive than those being used by the Water Division.

Councilor Coss said the Water Conservation Committee has discussed subsidies for the sub-meters along with less-expensive alternatives.

Responding to questioning from Councilor Ortiz regarding the \$100,000 expense for the water barrel program, City Water Conservation Specialist Dan Ransom said

no program has been developed for the water barrels at this point, but he was assuming it would be similar to last year's program. He stated that the City has not gone out to bid yet.

Mr. Ransom said the City sold the barrels last year for \$35 and subsidized the remaining \$40. He said the barrels should cost \$40 this year, so the City should be able to buy 2,500.

Responding to a suggestion by the Chair, Ms. Raveling agreed to look into whether there is a price agreement for the barrels.

Councilor Ortiz said he would support a small subsidy for the water barrels, but if the City will be subsidizing the cost of water barrels for people who can afford to pay for them at cost, the City should pass that cost on to them. He said the savings could be put into things like a rebate program or, preferably, a revolving loan fund for leak repairs.

**Councilor Wurzburger moved for approval. Councilor Heldmeyer seconded the motion, which passed 3-0 by voice vote.**

**Request for Approval of 2003 Irrigation Season Management Plan — Medians, Trees, Parks and MRC.**

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Councilor Heldmeyer explained that there was no quorum when this item was brought to the Public Works Committee last week, and so no action was possible, and the Committee will not meet again until April 14. She said staff was seeking conceptual approval of the plan, which conforms with Stage 3.

Parks and Recreation staff members Ron Shirley and Richard Fiedler were present.

Responding to concerns by Chair Lopez about the condition of the Plaza and City parks as the City continues in Stage 3 and the one-day-per-week watering restriction, Mr. Fiedler said the Parks Division prefers an evapotranspiration-based watering system, which only replaces what a plant has used. He stated that, if the City goes to Stage 2, which allows watering three days a week, more water than is necessary will be used. He said an ET-based system — which has already been installed — results in a healthier turf and less waste. He said the system automatically determines how much water is necessary.

Mr. Fiedler said the City needs a long-term plan, regardless of drought conditions, to maintain a good quality of life for the citizens of Santa Fe.

Mr. Fiedler asked the Committee to consider an amendment to the existing Water Conservation Ordinance that would allow Parks to use a water budget on an ET-based system with a reduction in use of no more than 15%. He said that, under such a plan, all of the City's parks could be brought to pre-drought conditions and kept in that state.

Chair Lopez asked staff to write up an amendment, which she said she would sponsor.

Councilor Wurzbarger stated that Santa Fe residents would strongly endorse such an amendment. She asked staff to write it up as soon as possible so it could be implemented this summer.

Chair Lopez said she saw no problem with that time frame provided the City could get an aggressive public hearing schedule in place.

Councilor Heldmeyer asked staff what could be done now in staff's plan under the current ordinance; for instance, dealing with effluent. She said there is consensus among the Council that effluent and greywater "are pretty much equivalent in terms of how they could be used." Noting that the MRC fields are watered with effluent three days per week by policy (as opposed to the ordinance), she asked if the City could go to the ET system without violating the law for watering the MRC.

Mr. Shirley responded that the City could do so, but with approval.

Councilor Heldmeyer asked if that would result in less overall watering, and Mr. Fiedler responded that it would.

**Councilor Heldmeyer moved to give approval that staff change this policy and to water the MRC under the rules they have laid out in their memorandum. Councilor Wurzbarger seconded the motion.**

Councilor Ortiz pointed out that the policy discussed by staff speaks to all of the parks, not just the MRC, and asked if Councilor Heldmeyer would consider an amendment giving staff conceptual approval for all of the parks.

Councilor Heldmeyer responded that this would not be possible because some of the things staff wants to do with the parks are not possible under the current ordinance.

In discussion, Councilor Ortiz explained that the large turf water budget plan was not implemented as proposed last winter because a small number of PUC members effectively shut it down "in the sort of hue and cry that was the water crisis last year." He said he did not want to see that happen again.

**Councilor Ortiz proposed a friendly amendment to include staff's recommendations for all of the parks and not just the MRC.**

Councilor Ortiz stated that this would give staff direction to put the changes in place now so they can move quickly when the ordinance does change.

**Councilor Heldmeyer accepted the amendment with an emphasis that the law has to be accordingly changed.**

**The motion carried 3-0 by voice vote.**

**MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

None.

**ADJOURN**

Its business completed, the Committee adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Accepted by:

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Councilor Carol Robertson Lopez, Chair

Reviewed by:

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Kathryn Raveling, Finance Director

Submitted by:

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Judith S. Beatty, Recorder

